

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical or grammatical errors. Figures 1A through 1K have been amended to be designated as Prior Art.

The Office Action mailed September 1, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11, and 14 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, and 13 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims; however, the indication of allowable subject matter in these claims is noted with appreciation. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, and 13, canceled claims 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, and 14, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,345 to Ohashi *et al.*

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,345 to Ohashi *et al.* ("Ohashi"). Claims 4, 10, and 14 have been canceled, rendering moot the rejection as to these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to the remaining claims, as hereinafter set forth.

Independent claims 1, 5, and 11 have been amended to recite that the aqueous solution comprises about 7.0% by weight acetic acid, about 0.4% by weight nitric acid, and about 0.15% by weight hydrofluoric acid. This subject matter was previously recited in each of dependent claims 2, 6, and 12, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. As such, amended claims 1, 5, and 11 are allowable.

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable as depending directly or indirectly from an allowable base claim, namely claim 5.

Since independent claims 1, 5, and 11 recite allowable subject matter, the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 11 should be withdrawn.

Obviousness Rejection Based on the AAPA and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,153,043 to Edelstein *et al.*

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,153,043 to Edelstein *et al.* (“Edelstein”). Claims 4, 10, and 14 have been canceled, rendering moot the rejection as to these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to the remaining claims, as hereinafter set forth.

Independent claims 1, 5, and 11 have been amended to recite that the aqueous solution comprises about 7.0% by weight acetic acid, about 0.4% by weight nitric acid, and about 0.15% by weight hydrofluoric acid. This subject matter was previously recited in each of dependent claims 2, 6, and 12, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. As such, amended claims 1, 5, and 11 are allowable.

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable as depending directly or indirectly from an allowable base claim, namely claim 5.

Since independent claims 1, 5, and 11 recite allowable subject matter, the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 11 should be withdrawn.

Objections to Claims /Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, and 11 to recite the subject matter of claims 2, 6, and 12, respectively.

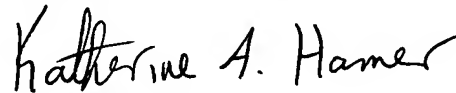
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, and 13 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, and 13 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 1, 2004

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

KAH/djp:ljb:csw

N:\2269\5981\amendment.DOC

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1A through 1K. These sheets replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1A through 1K.

Specifically, FIG. 1A has been revised to add reference numeral --10-- with an appropriate lead line arrow to generally indicate the structure. FIGS. 1A through 1K have also been revised to include the label "PRIOR ART."

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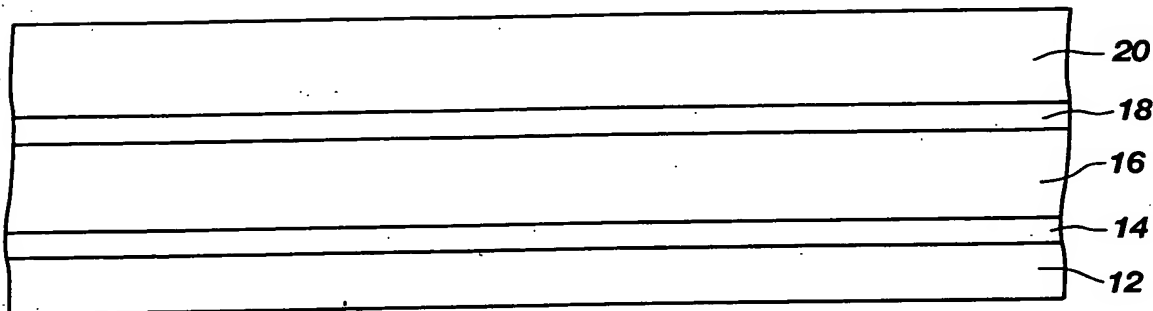


FIG. 1A
(PRIOR ART)

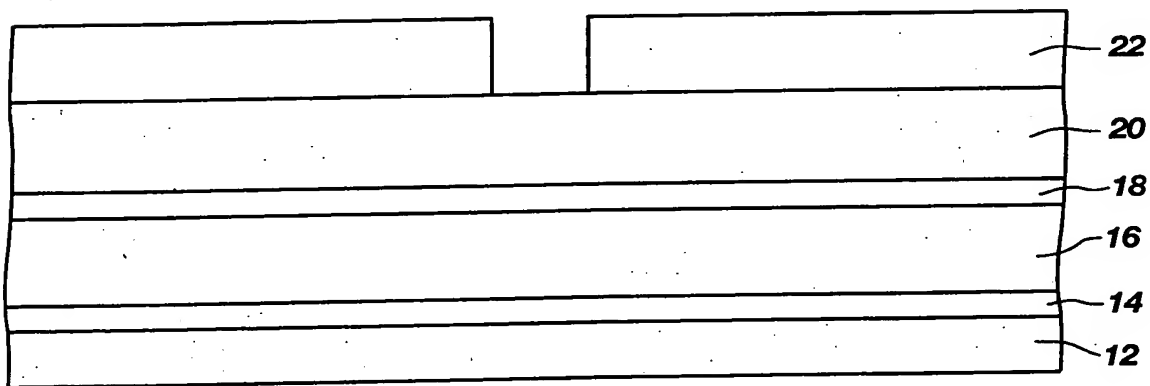


FIG. 1B
(PRIOR ART)

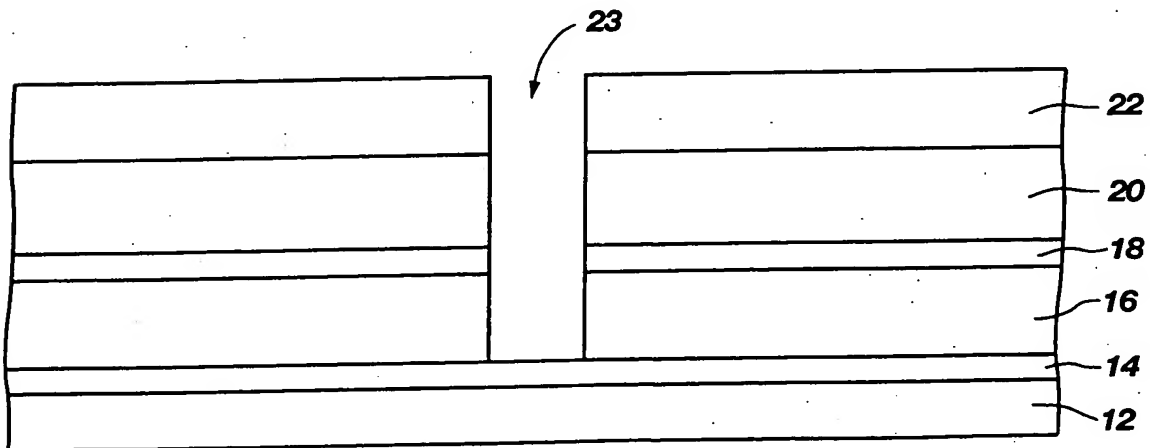


FIG. 1C
(PRIOR ART)

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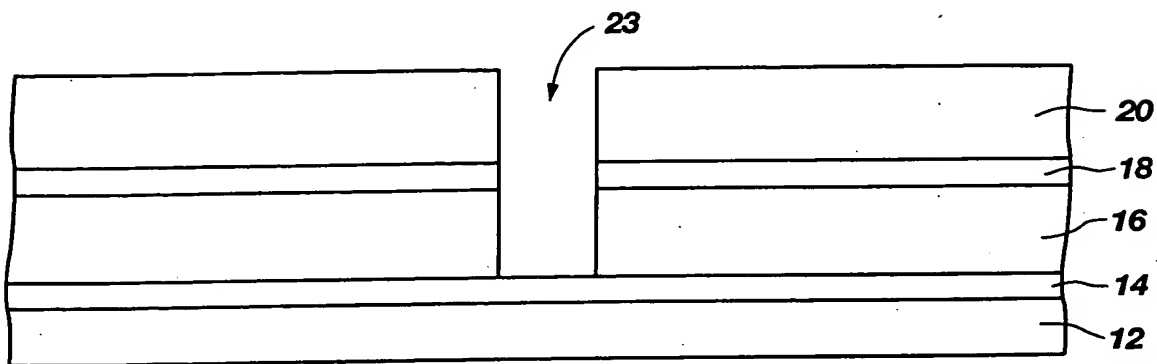


FIG. 1D
(PRIOR ART)

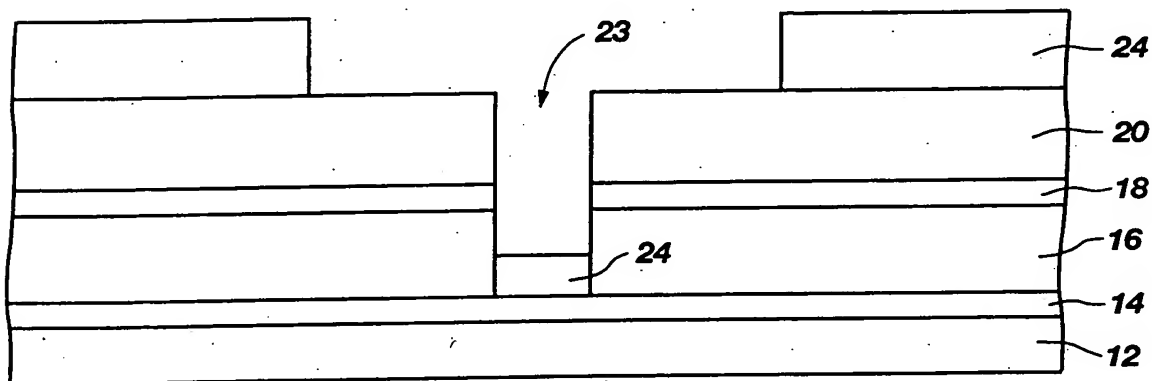


FIG. 1E
(PRIOR ART)

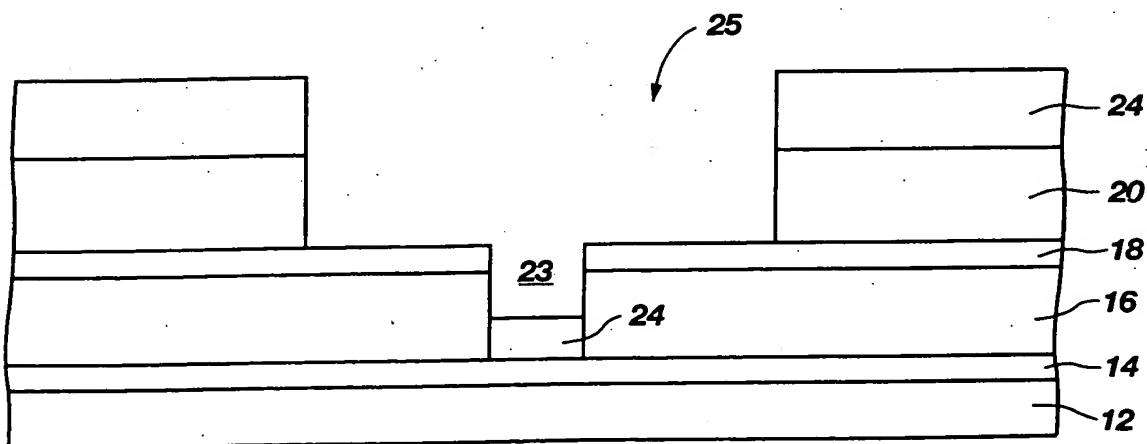


FIG. 1F
(PRIOR ART)

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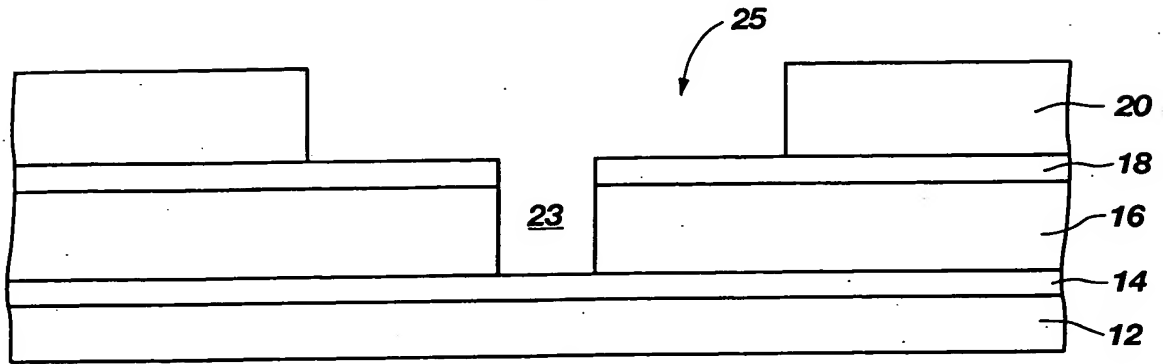


FIG. 1G
(PRIOR ART)

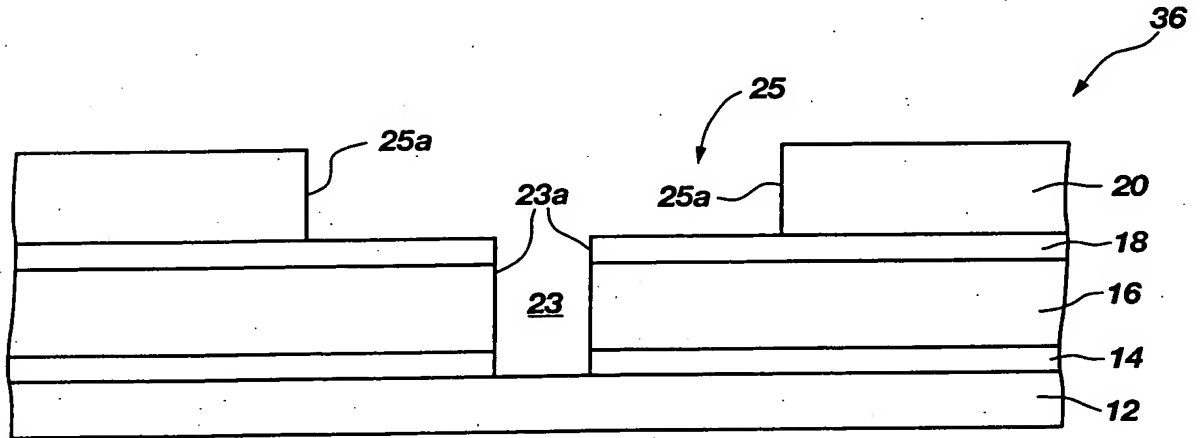


FIG. 1H
(PRIOR ART)

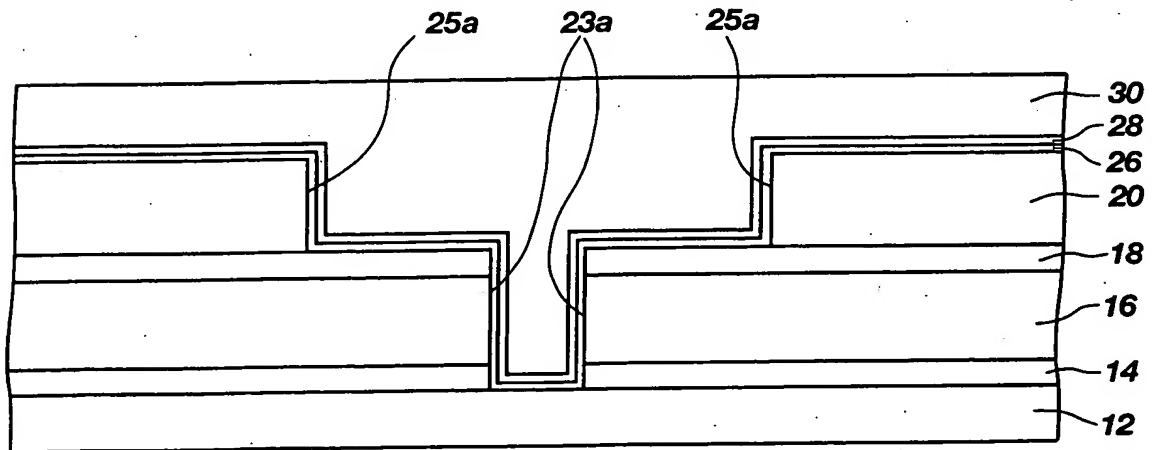


FIG. 1I
(PRIOR ART)

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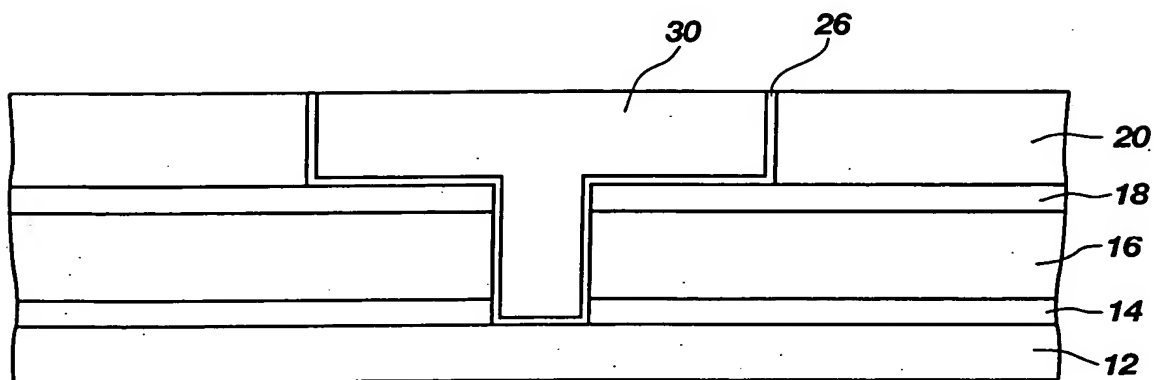


FIG. 1J
(PRIOR ART)

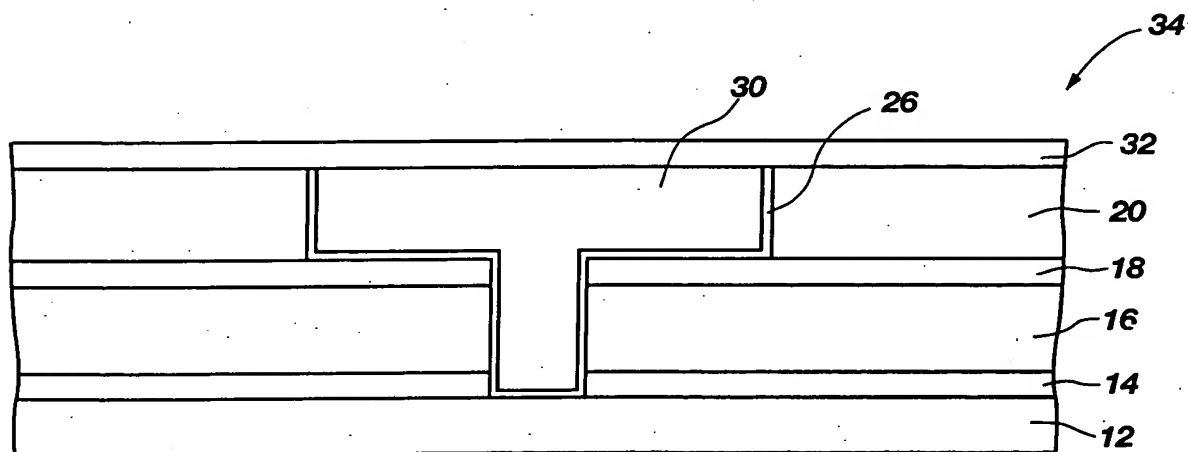


FIG. 1K
(PRIOR ART)